

06-21-04

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2825 IFW



Filed Via Express Mail pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Record No.: EV 332 248 463 US

On: JUNE 17, 2004

By:

LINDA E. HASTINGS

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Attorney Docket No.: NEKU 19.181 (100806-00056)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: **SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED**

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2004, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after July 20, 2004, please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please find enclosed a replacement Figure 4 for the approval of the Examiner.